

2010 Wyoming Starfish Thrower Awards



The Starfish Thrower Story: There are many versions of the Starfish Thrower story, and the following is an example of just one.

I awoke early, as I often did, just before sunrise to walk by the ocean's edge and greet the new day. As I moved through the misty dawn, I focused on a faint, faraway movement. I saw a boy, bending and reaching and waving his arms – dancing on the beach, no doubt in celebration of the perfect day soon to begin.

As I approached, I sadly realized that he was not dancing, but rather bending to sift through the debris left by the night's tide, stopping now and then to pick up a starfish and then standing, to heave it back into the sea. I asked the boy the purpose of the effort. "The tide has washed the starfish onto the beach and they cannot return to the sea by themselves," he replied, "When the sun rises, they will die, unless I throw them back to the sea."

I looked at the vast expanse of beach, stretching in both directions. Starfish littered the shore in numbers beyond calculation. The hopelessness of the boy's plan became clear to me and I pointed out, 'But there are more starfish on this beach than you can ever save before the sun is up. Surely you cannot expect to make a difference.'

He paused briefly to consider my words, bent to pick up a starfish and threw it as far as possible. Turning to me he simply said,

"I made a difference to that one."

Based in this delightful old story, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the Wyoming Department of Health will host the 2010 Annual Starfish Thrower event to acknowledge those who are working tirelessly to improve the lives of countless persons suffering from mental illness and/or addictions.

The two day celebration will include a banquet to honor those recognized as the "Starfish Throwers" in our state. In addition to recognizing the work of a few, the event will be an opportunity to raise awareness among policy makers and the public of the great successes of the Wyoming substance abuse and mental health system.

The 2010 Annual Starfish Awards will specifically acknowledge one individual or group from each of the listed categories below:

- ❖ Person in recovery from substance abuse
- ❖ Person in recovery from a mental health disorder
- ❖ A substance abuse, mental health treatment, and/or prevention advocate
- ❖ A public servant, which may include an elected or appointed official, judge, legislator or other public official
- ❖ A substance abuse, mental health treatment, and/or prevention program
- ❖ A community coalition
- ❖ A substance abuse therapist
- ❖ A mental health therapist
- ❖ A Wyoming youth, youth group, school, class, or individual under the age of 25 years advocating or supporting recovery
- ❖ A Wyoming family or parents who are in recovery

*******Department of Health Employees are not eligible for nomination*******

Nomination Deadline:

Thursday, December 3, 2009 by 5:00 p.m.

NOMINATION FORM
2010 Annual Wyoming Starfish Thrower Awards

2010 ANNUAL WYOMING STARFISH THROWER AWARDS

MEETING: FEBRUARY 8-9, 2010

AWARD BANQUET: FEBRUARY 8, 2010 AT LITTLE AMERICA IN CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Mail to: WDH, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division

OR 6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 220
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Info: (307) 777-6494 (1-800-535-4006)

Fax to: (307) 777-5849

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Thursday, December 3, 2009

(Please complete one form for each nominee. Add text directly in the form fields provided.)

NOMINEE'S NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

NOMINEE'S ORGANIZATION *(if appropriate):*

NOMINEE'S TITLE:

AWARD CATEGORY *(Please select appropriate category for this nominee.):*

- ☐ Person in recovery from substance abuse
- ☐ Person in recovery from a mental health disorder
- ☐ A substance abuse, mental health treatment, and/or prevention advocate
- ☐ A public servant, which may include an elected or appointed official, judge, legislator or other public official
- ☐ A substance abuse, mental health treatment, and/or prevention program
- ☐ A community coalition
- ☐ A substance abuse therapist
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Describe in what ways the nominee has made a significant impact to improve mental health or substance abuse prevention, recovery or services. If submitting a nominee for the Family or Youth Achievement category, describe successful achievements and efforts made by family or youth.

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:**SUBMITTER'S PHONE NUMBER:****Release of Information**

I hereby give my consent to be nominated for a Starfish Award. By my signature I authorize the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division and the Wyoming Department of Health to use my name, my photograph and the information in this nomination form for the purpose of publicizing the Starfish Award event. I understand that the release of this information to the media may result in members of the media asking additional questions about my experiences. I understand that I may choose to answer or not to answer any such question. I sign this authorization willingly and with full notice that it may result in the publication of this information in newspapers, on radio and television among other public exposure.

Name:**Date:****Phone Number:****Address:****Email Address:****Town:****Signature:** _____